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Dated: December 15, 2004

Signature:

  
(Mary Jane DiPalma)

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DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 15 DEC 2004

Docket No.: ASZD-P01-019  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
Bakel et al.

Application No.: Not Yet Assigned

Confirmation No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: December 15, 2004

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

For: PROCESS FOR THE PREPARATION OF  
DIOXANE ACETIC ACID ESTERS

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

**FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

MS PCT  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 6 of this paper.